

AN
ORDINANCE
OF THE
Lords & Commons

Assembled in
PARLIAMENT,
For the punishing of
Blasphemies and Heresies.

WITH
The several Penalties therein expressed.

Die Martis, 2 Maii, 1648.

Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament,
That the Ordinance concerning Blasphemies and Heresies be forthwith printed; And that the Knights and Burgessees respectively that serve for the several Counties and Places of the Kingdom, do send Copies of the said Ordinance to the said several Counties and Places: And the Ministers of the several Parishes are hereby required to Read and publish the same in their respective Parish Churches the next Lords-day after the receipt thereof.

H: Elfyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London, Printed for Edward Husband, Printer to the Honourable House of Commons. 1648.

THE ACT OF PARLIAMENT

IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE THIRD

FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF THE
TRADE OF SUGAR

AND FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE
CULTURE OF THE SUGAR CANE IN THE
WEST INDIES

That whereas by an Act of Parliament
in that behalf made

intituled "An Act for the better
regulation of the trade of sugar"

and for the encouragement of the
culture of the sugar cane in the
West Indies

it was enacted that the said
trade should be carried on
in conformity with the
provisions of the said Act

and that the said provisions
should be construed and
observed accordingly

And whereas by the said Act
it was further enacted
that the said provisions
should be construed and
observed accordingly

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Die Martis, 2 May, 1648.

A N
O R D I N A N C E
O F T H E
Lords & Commons

Assembled in
P A R L I A M E N T,
For punishing
Blasphemies and Heresies.

FOr the preventing of the growth and spreading of Heresie & Blasphemy, Be it Ordained by the Lords and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, That all such persons as shall from and after the date of this present Ordinance, willingly by Preaching, Teaching, Printing, or Writing, maintain and publish that there is no God; or that God is not present in all places, doth not know and foreknow all things, or

that he is not Almighty, that he is not perfectly Holy, or that he is not Eternal, or that the Father is not God, the Son is not God, or that the Holy Ghost is not God, or that they Three are not one. Eternal God: Or that shall in like maner maintain and publish, that Christ is not God equal with the Father, or shall deny the Manhood of Christ, or that the Godhead and Manhood of Christ are several Natures, or that the Humanity of Christ is pure and unspotted of all sin; or that shall maintain and publish as aforesaid, That Christ did not Dye nor rise from the Dead, nor is Ascended into Heaven bodily, or that shall deny his Death is meritorious in the behalf of Believers; or that shall maintain and publish, as aforesaid, That Jesus Christ is not the Son of God, or that the holy Scripture (viz.) of the Old Testament, *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ester, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zecharia, Malachi.* Of the New Testament, the Gospels according to *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of the Apostles, Pauls Epistles to the Romans, Corinthians the first, Corinthians the second, Galathians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians the first, Thessalonians the second, to Timothy the first, to Timothy the second, to Titus, to Philemon, the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Epistle of James, the first and second Epistles of Peter; the first, second,*
and

and third Epistle of John, the Epistle of Jude, the Revelation of John, is not the word of God, or that the Bodies of men shall not rise again after they are dead; or that there is no day of Judgement after death; all such maintaining and publishing of such Error or Errors with obstinacy therein, shall by virtue hereof be adjudged Felony, and all such persons upon complaint and proof made of the same in any of the cases aforesaid, before any two of the next Justices of the Peace for that Place or County, by the Oaths of two Witnesses (which said Justices of Peace in such cases shall hereby have power to administer) or confession of the party, the said party so accused shall be by the said Justices of the Peace committed to prison without Bail or Mainprise, until the next Goal delivery to be holden for that place or County, and the Witnesses likewise shall be bound over by the said Justices unto the said Goal delivery to give in their evidence; And at the said Goal delivery the party shall be indicted for Felonious Publishing and maintaining such Error: and in case the Indictment be found, and the Party upon his Tryal shall not abjure his said Error and defence and maintenance of the same, he shall suffer the pains of death, as in case of Felony without benefit of Clergy. But in case he shall recant or renounce and abjure his said error or errors, and the maintenance and publishing of the same, he shall nevertheless remain in Prison until he shall finde two Sureties, being Subsidy men, that shall be found with him before two or more Justices of the Peace or Goal delivery, that he shall not thenceforth publish or maintain as aforesaid the
 said

said error or errors any more : And the said Justices shall have power hereby to take Bail in such cases.

And be it further Ordained, That in case any person formerly indicted for publishing & maintaining of such erroneous Opinion or Opinions, as aforesaid, and renouncing and abjuring the same, shall nevertheless again publish and maintain his said former error or errors as aforesaid, and the same proved as aforesaid, the said party so offending shall be committed to Prison as formerly, and at the next Goal Delivery shal be indicted as aforesaid: And in case the indictment be then found upon the Tryal, and it shall appear that formerly the party was convicted of the same error, and publishing and maintaining thereof, and renouncing and abjured the same, the Offendor shall suffer death as in case of Felony, without benefit of Clergy. Be it further Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every person or persons that shall publish or maintain as aforesaid, any of the several errors hereafter ensuing, *viz.* That all men shall be saved, or that man by nature hath free will to turn to God, or that God may be worshipped in or by Pictures or Images, or that the Soul of any man after death goeth neither to Heaven or hell, but to Purgatory, or that the Soul of man dyeth or sleepeth when the body is dead, or that revelations or the workings of the Spirit are a rule of Faith or Christian life, though diverse from, or contrary to the written Word of God; or that man is bound to believe no more then by his reason he can comprehend; or that the Moral Law of God contained in the ten Commandments, is no rule of Christian life; or that a believer
need

need not repent or pray for pardon of sins, or that the two Sacraments of Baptism, and the Lords Supper, are not Ordinances commanded by the Word of God; or that the baptizing of Infants is unlawful, or such Baptism is void, and that such persons ought to be baptized again, and in pursuance thereof shall baptize any person formerly baptized; or that the observation of the Lords day as it is enjoyned by the Ordinances and Laws of this Realm, is not according, or is contrary to the Word of God, or that it is not lawful to joyn in publique prayer or family prayer, or to teach children to pray, or that the Churches of *England* are no true Churches, nor their Ministers and Ordinances true Ministers and Ordinances, or that the Church Government by Presbytery is Antichristian or unlawful, or that Magistracy or the power of the Civil Magistrate by law established in *England* is unlawful, or that all use of Arms, though for the publique defence (and be the cause never so just) is unlawful; and in case the Party accused of such publishing and maintaining of any of the said errors, shall be thereof convicted to have published and maintained the same as aforesaid, by the Testimony of two or more witnesses, upon oath or confession of the said party, before two of the next Justices of the Peace for the said place or county, whereof one to be of the *Quorum* (who are hereby required and authorized to send for Witnesses, and examine upon oath in such cases in the presence of the party) The party so convicted, shall be ordered by the said Justices, to renounce his said errors in the publique Congregation of the same Parish from whence the complainte

plaint doth come, or where the offence was committed; and in case he refuseth or neglecteth to perform the same, at or upon the day, time, and place appointed by the said Justices, then he shall be committed to prison by the said Justices, until he shall finde two sufficient Sureties, before two Justices of Peace for the said place or County (whereof one shall be of the *Quorum*) that he shall not publish or maintain the said error or errors any more.

Provided always, and be it Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That no attainder by vertue hereof, shall extend either to the forfeiture of the Estate real or personal of such person attainted, or corruption of such persons blood.

FINIS.

